

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete all prior lists of claims in the application and insert the following list of claims.

1. (CANCELED)
2. (CANCELED)
3. (CANCELED)
4. (CANCELED)
5. (CANCELED)
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A wound closure device for connecting tissue comprising **at least one pair of isolated first and second flexible straps wherein:**
 - a. **the a** first flexible strap **has having** a proximal end **with a male connector** and a distal end, and a ventral surface and a dorsal surface; and
 - b. **the a** second flexible strap **has having** a proximal end **with a female connector** and a distal end, and a ventral surface and a dorsal surface, wherein the **f emale connector is proximal end terminates in a connector designed and** configured to adjustably connect to the **male connector proximal end** of the first strap, wherein the first strap and the second strap have at least one barb on the ventral surface for engaging the tissue; whereby the straps form a wound closure.
7. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 6, wherein the first strap and the second strap are placed in the fascia of the wound.
8. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 6, wherein the device is made of resorbable material.

9. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 6, wherein a plurality of barbs is present on the ventral surface of the first and second straps.
10. (CANCELED)
11. (CANCELED)
12. (CANCELED)
13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim ~~6~~ **10**, wherein the first and second straps are device is placed in the wound by the use of a trochar.
14. (CANCELED)
15. (CANCELED)
16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim ~~6~~ **15**, wherein the female end comprises a buckle.
17. (NEW) The device of claim 16 wherein the male end of the first strap includes a ratcheted surface to accommodate the buckle of the female end.
18. (NEW) A method for closing a skin wound with a wound closure device, the device including at least one pair of isolated first and second flexible straps wherein the first flexible strap has a proximal end with a male connector and a distal end, and a ventral surface and a dorsal surface; and the second flexible strap has a proximal end with a female connector and a distal end, and a ventral surface and a dorsal surface, wherein the female connector is configured to adjustably connect to the male connector of the first strap, wherein the first strap and the second strap have at least one barb on the ventral surface for engaging the tissue and whereby the straps form a wound closure, the method comprising:

- a. placing the first strap and the second strap of the device on either side of the wound in an orientation generally perpendicular to the axis of the wound, wherein the distal ends of each of the first and second straps are inserted in the surrounding skin of the wound, thereby situating the proximal ends of each of the first and second straps at about the midline of the wound, such that the barbs of each of the first and second straps embed in the skin,
 - b. connecting the male connector to the female connector of each of the first and second straps and adjusting the straps to a desired tightness.
19. (NEW) The method of claim 18 wherein the female connector comprises a buckle and the male connector comprises a ratcheted surface to accommodate the buckle.